20. A vacancy will soon arise in the Legislative Council, consequent on the expiry of the term of Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai, who was returned by the members of the Quilon Division. His Highness the Maha Raja has been pleased to command that the members of that Division will now meet under the presidency of the Dewan Peishkar, Quilon, to elect a representative, whose name will be submitted to His Highness for consideration.

21. **Police.**—On the reversion of Mr. F. S. S. George to the British service, the Madras Government kindly lent the services of Mr. C. B. Cunningham for employment as the Commissioner of Police in Travancore, and that officer assumed charge of his duties in Chingam 1091. The strength of the force stood at 1,854 at the close of 1090, giving a ratio of one policeman for every four square miles. There was a decrease of 23 in the number of policemen prosecuted as compared with 1089, while the percentage of conviction was four against six in the previous year. Although 56 policemen were prosecuted by the public, not one of those cases ended in conviction. In this connection, I cannot help repeating the observation made last year that the Magistrates are not alive to their duty in the matter of awarding compensation to the accused, in cases in which they are convinced that the complaints preferred are false. The percentages of conviction in respect of persons and of recovery in respect of property, leave considerable room for improvement. The Government are glad to observe that Mr. Cunningham has already recognised this and proposes to take steps to secure better percentages in future years.

22. **Central Prison.**—The total number of prisoners of all classes at the end of 1090 was 548, against 557 at its beginning. It is unfortunate that the number of deaths rose from 18 to 25 and of admissions into the hospital from 308 to 698, the majority of cases under both the heads being on account of diseases of the digestive system. Early steps will be taken to grapple with the root causes of this evil. The Superintendent is being deputed to study the working of the Penitentiary at Madras and the District Jail at Palamcottah.

23. **Criminal Justice.**—An additional First Class Magistrate's Court has been established as a temporary measure at Perumbavoor, with jurisdiction over the five northernmost taluks of Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha, Kunnatnad, Alangad, and Parur. The District Munsiff of Kanjirapalli was re-invested with the powers of a First Class Magistrate. To afford relief to the Tahsildars of Changanachery and Shencottah in their work, the Deputy Tahsildars of those taluks were invested with third class magisterial powers. The number of offences reported fell from 19,618 to 19,353 and the percentage of convictions from 32 to 31. The number of juveniles convicted rose from 18 to 26, of whom only 10 or 38 per cent were committed to the Reformatory. Some of the Magistrates have to be reminded of the existence of this institution in Trivandrum. The number of public servants convicted fell from 17 to 8, the percentage of conviction being 4 against 7 in 1089. The Magistrates have ample powers under the law to put down frivolous and vexatious prosecutions, and it should be their endeavour not to shrink from the free exercise of those powers.

24. **Civil Justice.**—The temporary Second Judge's Court which was working at Parur, has been recently transferred to Alleppey. The term of one year for which the Munsiff-Magistrate's Court at Devicolam was sanctioned, having expired in Edavam 1090, its continuance for another year was sanctioned. The institutions of the year showed a decrease of 2,960 cases under original suits and an increase of 550 cases under appeals.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

25. **Agriculture.**—The Department of Agriculture continued to do good work. For detailed information as to the several measures initiated by the department during the year to improve the agricultural condition of the people, I would invite your attention to Dr. Kunjen Pillai's exhaustive report, copies of which have been ordered to be placed in your hands. A paddy farm was opened at Nagercoil and it is p

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